



Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

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NEWS *from the Office of Communications*

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DATE: June 28, 2012

SUBJECT: Archbishop William to receive omophor from Pope Benedict XVI

The sole Eastern Catholic hierarch participating in the June 29 pallium ceremony in Rome, Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla has been informed that he will receive the omophor from Pope Benedict XVI rather than the traditional Latin pallium. The Archbishop is leader of the Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* in America.

The pallium, a thin woolen band marked with six black crosses, is the traditional symbol of an archbishop's authority as pastor of his flock and of unity with the Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ. Also decorated with crosses, but considerably wider than the pallium, the omophor, which originally was made of wool, is a brocaded band of cloth and draped around the shoulders of an Eastern Catholic hierarch. Both the pallium and the omophor are worn around the shoulders to symbolize the iconic "lost sheep" carried upon the shoulders of Christ the Good Shepherd.

Each year, the pallium ceremony is held on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul – June 29 – as a reminder to the recipients that they are expected to emulate St. Peter as the head of the Church, and St. Paul as the evangelizer. Archbishops who have been installed or enthroned within the past year are invited to attend. This year the 46 world hierarchs attending include Archbishop William and four others from North America.

The ceremony will be broadcast live from Rome via EWTN Global Catholic Network at 3:30 a.m. (eastern) Friday morning, June 29 and re-broadcast at 5:30 p.m. that day.

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